ble. The delay in Gujarat has been exacerbated by the recent disturbances caused due to agitation on reservation issue which has affected not only the passport Office but also the work of the police authorities. Passport authorities in Gujarat as elsewhere are under instructions, however, to issue passports within 5 working days after the receipt of the 2 police reports mentioned above. Moreover, in unforeseen and urgent cases like death of a close relative abroad, participation in conference, delegations, need for urgent medical treatment abroad, need to join work or study abroad etc. the Passport Officers have been given powers to issue short-term validity passports without police verifications. Measures to obtain verification reports from the police authorities expeditiously are under consideration of the Government.

Attempts by Khalistani Protogonists to destroy Air-India Aircraft

313. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Khalistan terrorists made three attempts within 48 hours a blowing off of aircrafts either owned by Air India, or aircraft carrying Indian passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): Circumstances leading to the crash of Air India flight 182 on 23rd June, 1985 and also the explosion in a cargo container of a Canadian aircraft at Narita airport on the same date are under investigation by competent authorities. Government is fully alive to the various possibilities behind these events and their implications.

No third attempt has come to the notice of the Government, though there was a bomb alert on Air India flight 101 on June 24 when it was due to take off from London to New York. The flight was permitted to proceed after a thorough search of the aircraft.

High level Panel to review the rural schemes

314. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-level panel has been set up by the Planning Commission to review the rural schemes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the panel has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) how the recommendations are going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Planning Commission have set up a high level committee to review the expecting administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Strengthening of the monitoring units in the States

315. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to strengthen the monitoring units in the State Planning Bodies;

(b) if so, the guidelines sent to different State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the programmes proposed to be implemented for the above purpose?